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### National vegetation databases: the case of Vegltaly.

Questa è la Versione finale referata (Post print/Accepted manuscript) della seguente pubblicazione:

*Original Citation:*

National vegetation databases: the case of Vegltaly / Venanzoni R.; Assini S.; Buffa G.; Casavecchia S.; Farris E.; Gigante D.; Giusso Del Galdo G.; Guarino R.; Landucci F.; Maneli F.; Panfili E.; Prisco I.; Properzi A.; Tomaselli V.; Viciani D.. - STAMPA. - (2014), pp. 209-210. (Intervento presentato al convegno 23rd International Workshop of the European Vegetation Survey tenutosi a Ljubljana nel 8-12 May 2014).

*Availability:*

This version is available at: 2158/863295 since:

*Publisher:*

Čarni A., Juvan N., Ribeiro D.

*Terms of use:*

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European  
Vegetation  
Survey

# 23<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop of the European Vegetation Survey

Ljubljana 8–12 May 2014

*Book of Abstracts*



## 23<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop of the European Vegetation Survey – Book of Abstracts

*Editors:* Andraž Čarni, Nina Juvan, Daniela Ribeiro  
*Issued by:* Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology ZRC SAZU  
Anton Melik Geographical Institute ZRC SAZU  
*Represented by:* Matjaž Kuntner, Drago Perko  
*Technical editor:* Iztok Sajko  
*Published by:* ZRC Publishing House  
*Represented by:* Oto Luthar  
*Chief Editor:* Aleš Pogačnik  
*Printrun:* 260

Ljubljana, May 2014

CIP - Kataložni zapis o publikaciji  
Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica, Ljubljana

581.9(4)(082)

EUROPEAN Vegetation Survey. International Workshop (23 ; 2014 ; Ljubljana)  
Book of abstracts / 23rd International Workshop of the European Vegetation  
Survey, Ljubljana 8-12 May 2014 ; [editors Andraž Čarni, Nina Juvan, Daniela  
Ribeiro]. - Ljubljana : ZRC Publishing House, 2014

ISBN 978-961-254-693-9

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273600256

## National vegetation databases: the case of VegItaly

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In the last decade, vegetation scientists were increasingly attracted by the use of huge data sets, in order to address emerging issues such as the severe risk of species, habitats and biodiversity loss. Indeed, large databases became crucial for any nature conservation programme. VegItaly (<http://www.vegitaly.it>; GIVD ID EU-IT-001) is a web geo-database built on opensource software, designed to archive, retrieve and analyze vegetation data as well as to publish them on the web. It was born under the aegis of the Italian Society for Vegetation Science (SISV) as a collaborative project, thanks to the cooperation of a large group of scientists (currently more than 20 Italian Universities and Research Institutions are involved). At present, more than 30,000 published or unpublished, public or private vegetation plots are stored in VegItaly, still far from being an exhaustive sample of the whole Italian biodiversity: some vegetation types are better represented than others (i.e. forests 34.68%, shrublands 5.68%, herbaceous vegetation 55.99%, unclassified 3.57%) and furthermore they are not homogeneously distributed across the national territory. However, the number of vegetation plots is rapidly increasing. As concerns taxonomic aspects, VegItaly is based on an Archive taxonomic Checklist, an on-line synonymized list of botanical species names, developed to support the botanical data banking and vegetation analysis, currently including 23,463 valid names and synonyms. Bibliographic sources are linked to LISY, the national bibliographic archive online developed in the 1990s, storing the syntaxonomic units

of the Italian vegetation and the related published sources (currently including almost 3400 bibliographic entries and more than 33,200 *syntaxa*, including synonyms). Some user-friendly tools have been developed to facilitate data upload (*archiver*, *VegImport* and *TabImport*). Designed for floristic and phytosociological data, VegItaly's main aim is to contribute to data archiving and sharing, offering the possibility to manage large data sets for statistical analysis on a wide geographic scale. Currently, it represents a milestone in Italy in the field of vegetation science and stands as a standard management system for botanical data at the national level.